THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, May 12, 1800.

OBSERVATIONS *on the* CUCKOO's HATCHING.

[From the MONTHLY MAGAZINE.]

To the EDITOR.

SIR,

AS the ſeaſon approaches when that ſingular bird the cuckoo viſits our iſland, perhaps a ſtatement of the following fact may induce ſome of your readers, who have leiſure and opportunity, to attend to its natural hiſtory, and communicate through your publication the reſult of their inquiries to the public.

The regular and beautiful œconomy of the feathered tribe, and their uniform ſolicitude to propagate and provide for their young, led me, even when a boy, to reject, as a popular error, the commonly received opinion that the cuckoo always commits the care of her offſpring to a foſter parent. It was ſome time, however, before I could obtain any other than negative proof to the contrary. I had examined the neſts of the hedge-ſparrow, and of every other bird ſaid to receive the unnatural charge, in vain. But at laſt, I was poſitively convinced, that cuckoos do not only pair, but mature by incubation, and rear with aſſiduity that offſpring which they are accuſed of abandoning.

In the midſt of a wood I obſerved two of theſe birds riſe from the ground, without uttering their uſual cry; uncommon circumſtances which attracted my attention; and on examining the place, I found, at the foot of a hazel-buſh,

but without the leaſt appearance of a neſt, an egg, ſomewhat larger than that of the thruſh, and of the colour of the rook's. The next day I ſaw the birds in the ſame place; and on the third, another egg depoſited with the former. Nearly every day, for upwards of a fortnight, I raiſed one of the birds off the neſt, and always ſaw the other near. The latter would ſometimes, but very ſeldom, cry as he flew. At length two young ones were produced, covered with a dark lead-coloured down, and their mouths very large. Every day, for more than a week, I watched the parents carrying them food, which I ſuppoſed inſects, and ſaw them both feed them alternately. At the end of that time, both old and young were miſſing, though the latter were not half fledged; and I was left at a loſs to know whether the parents removed them from a place, where they were moleſted by my obſervations, or whether they had fallen a prey to ſome plundering animal.

It is far from my intention, Mr. Editor, to queſtion the authenticity of the obſervations of Mr. Jenner and other naturaliſts; but I may be allowed to conjecture that ſuch inſtances as they deſcribe are very rare; and that when they do happen, it is towards the end of the ſeaſon, when what is called inſtinct, but which I ſhould rather call reaſon, then teaches the bird, that it cannot remain in this country the time required to mature its offſpring; and that thoſe which have been occaſionally met with, in a torpid ſtate, during winter, are the produce of ſuch an accidental incubation of other birds. I am led to this by obſerving that the ſwallow tribe occaſionally lay eggs in their neſts without attempting to hatch them; and even, towards the time of their departure, drop them on the ſtraw roofs of houſes.

I am, &c.

A POOR NORTHUMBRIAN.

March 25th, 1800.

THE SYLPH;

OR,

THE HISTORY OF SOPHIA MERTON.

(Continued from Page 345.)

THE ſylph will here make a ſhort digreſſion, and leaving the intereſting Sophia to ſhine amongſt the fair ſtars that illumined the firſt ſet of ſociety in Melliford, and the ſecond ſet

ſet to lament the loſs of the pretty brunette, Eliza Bromley, now Mrs. Danvers, preſent his readers with ſome anecdotes of a lady, whom he noticed at the commencement of theſe annals as a neutral in the circles of that gay town:—

MEMOIRS OF LOUISA SANDFORD.

The father of Miſs Sandford was deſcended from a family of ſome little note in the county in which he reſided, but he himſelf was a very ſingular character, and what the world calls a great humouriſt; his notions were alſo extremely narrow, and his mind very illiterate. His deceaſed wife had left him two daughters, the youngeſt of whom was taken by her mother's parent to be the companion of her declining yerrs; while Louiſa, the eldeſt, was left to conſole her father whoſe darling ſhe became. The perſon of Louiſa was prettily formed with reſpect to ſymmetry and proportion of figure, but her features would have been conſidered as plain, if a brilliant complexion and fine neck had not prevented the beholder from thinking ſo.

Mr. Sandford had beſtowed on his daughter a tolerable education, as far as being able to read, write, and work, might be ſo called; but as to any mental improvement he was abſolutely incapable of appreciating its value, or even of perceiving the want of it. Louiſa poſſeſſed lively ſpirits, and as ſhe grew up, her mind, for want of a proper direction, fixed all its feelings in a rage for admiration. To attract, no matter how, the notice of the men; to receive compliments, no matter how coarſe, and to draw attention, no matter from whom, became the ſole buſineſs of her life. Mr. Sandford did not reſide immediately in the town of Mellford, but within ſo ſhort a diſtance as to be conſidered one of the inhabitants; and Louiſa came to take her evening and morning walks on the faſhionable promenade, viſited in the town, &c.

Having mentioned the unhappy turn of this young lady's mind, it will be readily ſuppoſed that Mellford furniſhed her with abundant opportunities for diſplaying it. To be admired is certainly the wiſh of every young woman, and perhaps, under different modifications, of every woman in exiſtence, and no one acquainted with the finer ſprings that move the world, would wiſh to ſee this principle eradicated from the minds of the fair: But Louiſa's whole ideas were abſorbed by this ſingle object, and that at its very loweſt ebb, and there was ſcarce any degradation ſhort of abſolute criminality, to which ſhe would not ſubmit in order to gain the attendance

tendance and company of every man reſembling a gentleman, with whom ſhe accidentally became acquainted.—Walking at improper hours, romping, and a number of circumſtances indicating extreme levity, became her general behaviour; until at length ſhe wore all the appearance of vice, when, in truth, ſhe was innocent of every thing except the moſt glaring imprudence. Things were carried to ſuch a pitch, that her female friends were obliged to decline appearing with her in public; as ſhe encouraged very improper behaviour in the men, and her male acquaintance were alſo very frequently ſuch as her friends did not chuſe to be ſeen in company with; but acting with the greateſt candour, they did her the juſtice to believe, ſhe was only imprudent, not guilty; and therefore continued to viſit her, but at ſuch times as precluded any propoſal of appearing on the public walks, &c.

It may be imagined that neither Mr. Sandford or his daughter were ſo devoid of friends, as not to hear many hints concerning the improper conduct of the latter; in truth many plain remonſtrances, as well as gentle hints, were given on the occaſion: but Louiſa was incorrigible, and as to her father he could not be made to comprehend any thing about it: And as nobody could abſolutely convict his daughter of an intrigue, or ſay ſhe was going to marry a man of ſmall fortune, particularly a ſoldier, he was perfectly eaſy. To the military profeſſion he had, in his youth, contracted a ſtrong averſion, which age had rather increaſed, as is uſual in ſuch ſort of prejudices. With reſpect to the army Louiſa held an opinion totally oppoſite to that of her father; military men were her ſupreme delight, and for this reaſon that when in country quarters, being idle men, they could and would afford her a large portion of their time.

In ſpite of every good-natured caution, and every ill-natured ſneer, Louiſa continued her career of imprudence: was there a regiment marched into Mellford, before the men could be called over on the parade Miſs Sandford was ſure to make her appearance in the midſt of them, either on foot, dreſſed out in a glaring ſtile of faſhion, or on horſeback, apparently making her way in great haſte through the crowd. On the firſt appearance of a new corps this was conſtantly the caſe, and on moſt other days alſo, ſo that ſhe was conſidered as much a conſtant attendant at what is denominated the roll-call, as any officer of the regiment. Will it be credited that with all this levity Louiſa acquired a lover, and that lover was the ſhrewd and ſarcaſtic Granger, whoſe juſt

obſervations

obſervations on the ladies' dreſs was noticed by the ſylph in the firſt pages of this hiſtory? It was impoſſible for any two people to be more apparently unſuitable to each other than Granger and Louiſa Sandford; the conduct of the lady furniſhed a compleat commentary on the remarks of the gentleman; but it was by the rule of contraries, and nothing could be more ludicrous than to behold this giddy and imprudent girl in the height of her airs, by the ſide of her ſarcaſtic and penetrating admirer, who, like Caſſius,

——"Smil'd in ſuch a ſort
"As if he mock'd himſelf, and ſcorn'd his ſpirit
"That could be mov'd to ſmile at any thing."

Granger became acquainted with Miſs Sandford on his reſiding in the town of Mellford, in the ſame eaſy manner, and with the ſame facility, that every other gentleman that choſe might become her acquaintance. The perſon of Louiſa pleaſed him, and his penetration and accurate obſervation enabled him to aſcertain that her conduct proceeded from extreme giddineſs, and not from vicious inclinations. Mr. Sandford could give his daughter a very handſome fortune, which it would be exceedingly convenient to Mr. Granger to receive, and who therefore very ſeriouſly began to think of making her his wife. He paſſed much time with her in her walks, for Mr. Sandford never choſe that any ſingle men, particularly ſuch as were or had been in the army, (the latter of which was Granger's ſituation,) ſhould viſit at his houſe, and ſat down by his fire-ſide ſmoaking his pipe in perfect ſelf-ſatisfaction with this abſurd conduct, while his darling child ran about Mellford in company with every man called a gentleman, or any thing like a gentleman, who conſidered himſelf as her acquaintance.

(To be continued.)

Biographical Sketch of General George Waſhington.

By J. Morse, D.D.

Miniſter at Charleſtown, near Boſton, and Author of the American Geography.

(Concluded from Page 349.*)*

TWICE elected by the unanimous voice of his country to the Preſidential chair, when the period for a third election

election arrived, in September, 1796, when the ſtate of his country was ſuch that he conſidered it no longer neceſſary for him to ſacrifice his inclination to his duty, he announced to his fellow citizens in an addreſs which will be immortal as his name, his determination to retire, and requeſting them not to conſider him as a candidate for their future ſuffrages; thus preventing "the anxious wiſhes of an affectionate people from adding a third unanimous teſtimonial of their unabated confidence in the man ſo long enthroned in their hearts." Having ſpent forty-five years of his life in the ſervice of his country, he conſoled himſelf with the hope that he was now quitting for ever "the boundleſs field of public action, inceſſant trouble, and high reſponſibility, in which he had ſo long acted a principal part; but this fond hope was not realized. He had not yet arrived at the pinnacle of human greatneſs. One aſcending ſtep yet remained untaken. From March, 1797 to July, 1798, he lived in peace, at his beloved retreat, diſcharging the duties of a private citizen, with a condeſcenſion and greatneſs of mind peculiar to himſelf. At the latter period, "when every thing we hold dear and ſacred was ſeriouſly threatened*," the voice of his countrymen was raiſed to him, as the inſtrument, under Providence, for their protection: he heard it, and inſtantly obeyed; and thus advanced the laſt aſcending ſtep in the career of earthly glory! On this high and commanding ground he ſtood, venerable in ſervices as in years, the cement and the bulwark of our nation, till the 14th of December, 1799, when he was ſummoned above to join that noble company of the "wiſe, who ſhall ſhine as the brightneſs of the firmament, and as the ſtars, for ever and ever!"

His laſt ſickneſs was ſhort and painful. On Thurſday the 12th he was abroad on one of his plantations. The day was rainy, and he took cold; which, on Friday, produced a violent inflammation in the throat. The following night his diſeaſe became very alarming, and he was urged to ſend to Alexandria for his phyſician. His humanity for his ſervants prevented it till the next morning. At eleven o'clock on Saturday his phyſician arrived. It was too late. The hand of death was already upon him. Though his diſtreſs was extreme, he was calm and reſigned. "He informed his attendants that his affairs were in good order; that he had made his will, and that his public buſineſs was but two days behind hand." A very ſhort time before he died, he ſaid to

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* General Waſhington's Letter of Acceptance.

his phyſician, " Doctor, what is the clock? How long am I to remain in this ſituation?" The Doctor replied, " Not long, Sir." He then rejoined with the firmeſt countenance, " I have no fear, Doctor, to die." His breathing ſoon grew ſhorter, and preſently after he expired without a ſigh or a groan:"

" When keeneſt anguiſh rack'd his mighty mind,
" And the fond heart the joys of life reſign'd,
" No guilt nor terror ſtretch'd its hard controul,
" No doubt obſcur'd the ſunſhine of the ſoul.
" Prepar'd for death, his calm and ſteady eye
" Look'd fearleſs upward to a peaceful ſky;
" While wondering angels point the airy road,
" Which leads the Chriſtian to the throne of God."

General Waſhington in his perſon was tall, upright, and well made; in his manners eaſy and unaffected. His eyes were of a blueiſh caſt, not prominent, indicative of deep thoughtfulneſs, and when in action, on great occaſions, remarkably lively. His features ſtrong, manly, and commanding; his temper reſerved and ſerious; his countenance grave, compoſed, and ſenſible. There was in his whole appearance an unuſual dignity and gracefulneſs, which at once ſecured for him profound reſpect and cordial eſteem. He ſeemed born to command his fellow men. In his official capacity he received applicants for favours, and anſwered their requeſts with ſo much eaſe, condeſcenſion, and kindneſs, as that each retired believing himſelf a favourite of his chief. He had an excellent and well cultivated underſtanding; a correct, diſcerning, and comprehenſive mind; a memory remarkably retentive; energetic paſſions under perfect controul; a judgment ſober, deliberate, and ſound. He was a man of the ſtricteſt honour and honeſty, fair and honourable in his dealings, and punctual to his engagements. His diſpoſition was mild, kind, and generous. Candour, ſincerity, moderation, and ſimplicity, were, in common, prominent features in his character; but when an occaſion called, he was capable of diſplaying the moſt determined bravery, firmneſs, and independence. He was an affectionate huſband, a faithful friend, a humane maſter, and a father to the poor. He lived in the unvarying habits of regularity, temperance, and induſtry. He ſteadily roſe at the dawn of day, and retired to reſt uſually at nine o'clock in the evening. The intermediate hours all had their proper buſineſs aſſigned them. In his allotments for the revolving hours, religion was not forgotten.

Feeling,

Feeling, what he ſo often publickly acknowledged, his entire dependance on God, he daily, at ſtated ſeaſons, retired to his cloſet, to worſhip at his footſtool, and to aſk his divine bleſſing. He was remarkable for his ſtrict obſervation of the ſabbath, and exemplary in his attendance on public worſhip.

Of his faith in the truth and excellence of the holy ſcriptures, he gave evidence, not only by his excellent and moſt exemplary life, but in his writings, eſpecially when he aſcribes the meliorated condition of mankind, and the increaſed bleſſings of ſociety, "above all, to the pure and benign light of revelation;" and when he offers to God, his earneſt prayer "that he would moſt graciouſly be pleaſed to diſpoſe us all to do juſtice, to love mercy, and to demean ourſelves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteriſtics of the Divine Author of our bleſſed religion; without an humble imitation of whoſe example, in theſe things, we can never hope to be a happy nation*." In an addreſs to him, immediately after he commenced his Preſidency over the United States, from a venerable and reſpectable body of men, who were in the beſt ſituation to know his religious character, and who, no doubt, expreſſed what they knew, is the following teſtimony to his faith in Chriſtianity. "But we derive a preſage," ſay they, "even more flattering from the piety of your character. Public virtue is the moſt certain mean of public felicity; and religion is the ſureſt baſis of virtue. We therefore eſteem it a peculiar happineſs to behold in our Chief Magiſtrate, a ſteady, uniform, avowed friend of the Chriſtian religion; who has commenced his adminiſtration in rational and exalted ſentiments of piety, and who, in his private conduct, adorns the doctrines of the goſpel of Chriſt†." Grounded on thoſe pure and excellent doctrines, to which his life was ſo conformable; copying as he did, with ſuch exemplary ſtrictneſs and uniformity, the precepts of Chriſt, we have ſtrong conſolation and joy in believing, that ere this, he has heard from his God and Saviour, this enrapturing ſentence, "Well done good and faithful ſervant, enter into the joy of your Lord!"

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* See his "Farewell Orders to the Armies of the United States," dated Rocky Hill, near Princeton, November 2, 1783.

† See the "Addreſs of the General Aſſembly of the Preſbyterian Church, to the Preſident of the United States," dated Philadelphia, May, 1789.

What a bleſſing to the world, what an honour to human nature, is a character thus "throughout ſublime?" What a bright exemplar for kings, for princes, for rulers of every name, for warriors, for farmers, for Chriſtians, for mankind? Thanks be to God for ſo rich a gift! Praiſe to his name for beſtowing it on our nation, and thus diſtinguiſhing it above all others on the globe, and let all the people of Columbia with one voice ſay Amen!

It will not, we are perſuaded, be deemed an improper addition to the foregoing ſketch of the life of this illuſtrious character, to inſert ſome extracts from his will, made in 1799, and in which our readers will obſerve, with pleaſure, the ſame dignity of mind, the ſame excellence of intention, and the ſame ſoundneſs of judgment, which were ſo eminently conſpicuous in the character and conduct of General Waſhington, and which will hand down his name to poſterity with veneration and honour.

UPON the deceaſe of my wife, it is my will and deſire that all the ſlaves which I hold in my own right, ſhall receive their freedom. To emancipate them during her life would, though earneſtly wiſhed by me, be attended with ſuch inſuperable difficulties, on account of their intermixture by marriages with the dower negroes, as to excite the moſt painful ſenſations, if not diſagreeable conſequences from the latter, while both deſcriptions are in the occupancy of the ſame proprietor; it not being in my power, under the tenure by which the dower negroes are held to manumit them. And whereas among thoſe who will receive freedom according to this demiſe, there may be ſome who, from old age or bodily infirmities, and others who, on account of their infancy, will be unable to ſupport themſelves, it is my will and deſire that all who come under the 1ſt and 2d deſcription, ſhall be comfortably clothed and fed by my heirs while they live; and that ſuch of the latter deſcription as have no parents living, or if living, are unable or unwilling to provide for them, ſhall be bound by the Court till they ſhall arrive at the age of twenty-five years; and in caſes where no record can be produced whereby their ages can be aſcertained, the judgment of the Court, upon its own view of the ſubject, ſhall be adequate and final. The negroes thus bound are (by their maſters or miſtreſſes) to be taught to read and write, and to be brought up to ſome uſeful occupation, agreeable to the laws of the ſaid commonwealth of Virginia, providing

for the ſupport of orphan and other poor children. And I do hereby expreſsly forbid the ſale or tranſportation out of the ſaid Commonwealth, of any ſlave I may die poſſeſſed of, under any pretence whatever. And I do moreover moſt ſolemnly and moſt pointedly enjoin it upon my executors hereafter named, or the ſurvivor of them, to ſee that this clauſe reſpecting ſlaves, and every part thereof, be religiouſly fulfilled at the epocha at which it is directed to take place, without evaſion, neglect, or delay, after the crops which may then be in the ground are harveſted, particularly as it reſpects the aged and infirm: ſeeing that a regular and permanent fund be eſtabliſhed for their ſupport as long as there are ſubjects requiring it, not truſting to the uncertain proviſion to be made by individuals.

To the truſtees (governors, or by whatſoever name they may be deſignated) of the academy in the town of Alexandria, I give and bequeath (in truſt) four thouſand dollars, or in other words, twenty of the ſhares which I hold in the Bank of Alexandria, towards the ſupport of a free ſchool, eſtabliſhed at and annexed to the ſaid academy, for the purpoſe of educating ſuch orphan children, or the children of ſuch other poor and indigent perſons as are unable to accompliſh it with their own means; and who, in the judgment of the truſtees of the ſaid ſeminary are beſt entitled to the benefit of this donation.

Whereas by a law of the commonwealth of Virginia, enacted in the year 1785, the legiſlature thereof was pleaſed, as an evidence of its approbation of the ſervices I had rendered the public during the revolution, and partly, I believe, in conſideration of my having ſuggeſted the vaſt advantages which the community would derive from the extenſion of its inland navigation, under legiſlative patronage, to preſent me with one hundred ſhares, of one hundred dollars each, in the incorporated company eſtabliſhed for the purpoſe of extending the navigation of James River from Tydewater to the mountains; and alſo with fifty ſhares of one hundred pounds ſterling each, in the corporation of another company, likewiſe eſtabliſhed for the ſimilar purpoſe of opening the navigation of the river Potomac, from Tidewater to Fort Cumberland; the acceptance of which, though the offer was highly honourable and grateful to my feelings, was refuſed, as inconſiſtent with a principle which I had adopted, and never departed from, namely, not to receive pecuniary compenſation for any ſervices I could render my country in its arduous ſtruggle with Great Britain, for its rights, and becauſe

cauſe I had evaded ſimilar propoſitions from other ſtates in the Union. Adding to this refuſal, however, an intimation that if it ſhould be the pleaſure of the legiſlature to permit me to appropriate the ſaid ſhares to public uſes, I would receive them on thoſe terms with due ſenſibility; and this it having conſented to in flattering terms, as will appear by a ſubſequent law, and ſundry reſolutions, in the moſt ample and honourable manner; I proceed after this recital, for the more correct underſtanding of the caſe, to declare, that it has always been a ſource of ſerious regret with me to ſee the youth of theſe United States ſent to foreign countries for the purpoſe of education, often before their minds were formed, or they had imbibed any adequate ideas of the happineſs of their own, contracting too frequently, not only habits of diſſipation and extravagance, but principles unfriendly to republican government, and to the true and genuine liberties of mankind, which thereafter are rarely overcome. For theſe reaſons it has been my ardent wiſh to ſee a plan deviſed on a liberal ſcale, which would have a tendency to ſpread ſyſtematic ideas through all parts of this riſing empire, thereby to do away local attachments and ſtale prejudices, as far as the nature of things would, or indeed ought, to admit from our national councils. Looking anxiouſly forward to the accompliſhment of ſo deſirable an object as this is (in my eſtimation), my mind has not been able to contemplate any plan more likely to effect the meaſure, than to eſtabliſh an univerſity, in a central part of the United States, to which the youths of fortune and talents, from all parts thereof, might be ſent for the completion of their education, in all the branches of polite literature, in arts and ſciences, in acquiring knowledge in the principles of politics and good government, and (as a matter of infinite importance in my judgment) by aſſociating with each other and forming friendſhip in juvenile years, be enabled to free themſelves, in a proper degree, from thoſe local prejudices, and habitual jealouſies, which have juſt been mentioned; and which, when carried to exceſs, are never failing ſources of diſquietude, to the public mind, and pregnant with miſchievous conſequences to this country: under theſe impreſſions ſo fully dilated,

I give and bequeath, in perpetuity, the fifty ſhares I hold in the Potomac Company (under the aforeſaid acts of the Legiſlature of Virginia), towards the endowment of an univerſity, to be eſtabliſhed within the limits of the diſtrict of Columbia, under the auſpices of the general government.

The hundred ſhares which I hold in the James River Company, I have given, and now confirm in perpetuity, to and for the uſe of Liberty Hall academy, in the county of Rockbridge, in the commonwealth of Virginia.

To each of my nephews, William Auguſtine Waſhington, George Lewis, George Septoe Waſhington, Buſhrod Waſhington, and Samuel Waſhington, I give one of the ſwords or cutteaux, of which I may die poſſeſſed: and they are to chooſe in the order they are named. Theſe ſwords are accompanied with an injunction not to unſheath them for the purpoſe of ſhedding blood, except it be for ſelf-defence, or in defence of their country and its rights: and, in the latter caſe, to keep them unſheathed, and prefer falling with them in their hands to the relinquiſhment thereof.

The family vault at Mount Vernon, requiring repairs, and being improperly ſituated beſides, I deſire that a new one of brick, and upon a larger ſcale, may be built at the foot of what is commonly called the Vineyard Incloſure, on the ground which is marked out; in which my remains, with thoſe of my deceaſed relations (now in the old vault), and ſuch others of my family as may chooſe to be entombed there, may be depoſited. And it is my expreſs deſire that my corpſe may be interred in a private manner, without parade or funeral oration.

GENERAL REVIEW *of* POLITICS,

For April, 1800.

FRANCE.

IT appears by a letter from General Maſſena, dated headquarters at Genoa, March the 3d, that the campaign has commenced there. "Informed (he ſays) that the enemy were forming magazines at Seſtri di Levante, and that the inſurgents of Fontana Buona increaſed in ſtrength and audacity, I reſolved to puniſh the one, and to feed the army at the expence of the other. March the 5th was choſen for this operation, and Generals Marbot and Gaſan, commanding the ſecond and third diviſions of the army, were ordered to facilitate it by making a ſtrong reconnoitring in their front. The former ſet out from Savona, and proceeded as far as Dego and Soſana. The latter went to the gates of Novi, the enemy every where falling back before them. The right wing, which General Darmand commanded, beat the Auſtrians, and

and, after a conſiderable loſs, made them evacuate Seſtri di Levante, which they occupied, with three battalions, a ſquadron of huſſars, and four pieces of cannon. This operation procured for us between 5 and 6000 quintals of corn found in the buildings."

The Paris journals have been received to the 13th of April; nothing in them is more intereſting, than the capitulation between the Grand Vizir and General Kleber. The ſtipulations of the treaty do not materially differ from thoſe contained in the Gazette of Vienna. Sir Sidney Smith is not only a party in this convention, but is ſtated to have acted as the plenipotentiary of the Porte.

The Firſt Conſul has ſent a letter to the members of the municipality of the city of Amſterdam, dated the 8th of March, to the following purport.—"I have taken every precaution to make this campaign deciſive: but to ſecure its favourable iſſue, I ſhall in the firſt place have need of an extraordinary fund of ten or twelve millions; and as in a common cauſe the efforts ought to be reciprocal, I addreſs myſelf to you, Citizens. I ſend you General Marmont, Member of the Council of State, and I have charged him to preſent you with a plan, according to which the payment of the advances made by the commune and inhabitants of the city of Amſterdam to the French government will be ſecured in the ſureſt manner.

"Knowing the good diſpoſition which the citizens of Amſterdam have always manifeſted, I do not heſitate in circumſtances of ſuch urgency to have recourſe to their zeal."

We do not find this demand has hitherto been complied with.

PORTUGAL.

The treaty of defenſive alliance between Ruſſia and Portugal was ſigned at Peterſburgh, the 21ſt of September, 1799. The two contracting powers mutually guarantee each other's poſſeſſions. They declare their object is not to do wrong to any power, but to contribute to their mutual benefit and ſecurity, and to the re-eſtabliſhment of peace in Europe. It is ſtipulated, that, on the requiſition of either of the two powers attacked in their poſſeſſions, Ruſſia is at firſt to furniſh 6000 infantry; and that Portugal on the other hand is to furniſh to Ruſſia a ſquadron of ſix ſhips of war, five from 64 to 74, and a frigate of 32 to 40. The aid may be furniſhed in money, at the option of the party requiring. The auxi-

liary

liary ſquadron of Portugal ſhall always be employed conjointly with the Ruſſian ſquadron, or with thoſe of their ally the King of Great Britain.

RUSSIA.

The variable politics of this country have again aſtoniſhed the world; and the aſpect it at preſent exhibits may probably be productive of more influence upon the progreſs of the war, than any one event that has hitherto occurred in any country. It appears that the Britiſh Cabinet are not ſo forgetful of the intereſts of their country, and of Europe at large, as to conſent that Malta, which has probably by this time fallen into our poſſeſſion, ſhould be tacitly relinquiſhed into the hands of the Emperor Paul; and it is generally believed, that it will be, or has already been, occupied in the name of his Sicilian Majeſty. The Ruſſian Czar, however, who has ſtedfaſtly fixed his eye upon this important fortreſs, and has already elected himſelf into the high poſt of Grand Maſter of the Knights of Malta, cannot quietly brook the reſiſtance which he finds is making from all quarters, to his *very modeſt* and *diſintereſted* pretenſions.

HOLLAND.

This country, alarmed by the events of the late campaign, is making every exertion to repel invaſion; but the total privation of her commerce and colonies, and the loſs of her navy, render her an inconſiderable enemy, and a feeble ally.

SWITZERLAND.

This unfortunate nation exhibits a horrible ſpectacle of the reſults of French fraternity: Exhauſted by murder, rapine, and oppreſſion; deprived of laws, trade, and agriculture; the inhabitants of theſe once happy and free cantons are reduced to ſolicit alms from the benevolence of richer nations, while daily emigrations threaten to reduce thoſe ſtupendous mountains and happy valleys, which the philoſopher delighted to contemplate, to a deſert region, abandoned by the arts, induſtry, and civilization. The miſery of the country is not confined to the natives; the French troops quartered there have been reduced, by the want of pay, to the extreme of riſing againſt their officers, and were with great difficulty reſtrained from the moſt fatal exceſſes. General Lecourbe diſplayed a moſt laudable intrepidity and perſeverance.

ITALY.

Here the inhabitants, no longer terrified by the preponderance of the French arms, ſhow their indignation without reſtraint: In the Genoeſe territory, no leſs than 122 villages are in a ſtate of inſurrection; and Le Verone, the leader of the inſurgents, has publiſhed a proclamation, requiring the other Genoeſe to join him. Maſſena detached a part of his force to quell one of theſe inſurrections at Fontana Buona, and, according to his own ſtatement, was ſucceſsful.

EAST INDIES.

Advices have been received overland from Bombay, dated the 20th of December, which ſtate the highly important intelligence of the fort of Jamaulabad having ſurrendered to the Britiſh arms, on the 8th of October. This completes the conqueſt of the whole of the Myſore country.

The natives have all, it is ſaid, expreſſed the warmeſt ſentiments of loyalty and attachment to the new ſyſtem of government.

GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.

The Anti-Unioniſts in the Iriſh Parliament made a bold but unſucceſsful attempt to ſuſpend, if not to defeat, the queſtion of the incorporative Union, by bringing forward a motion for the diſſolution of Parliament. The mover was Sir John Parnell, the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, who ſupported the meaſure, in conjunction with his friends, on the ground, that a new election was the only mode of aſcertaining the ſenſe of the people—The motion was rejected by a majority of 150 to 104.

The two Houſes of the Iriſh Parliament having finally concurred in the reſolutions conſtituting the foundation of the plan of an Union, and in an addreſs to the Lord Lieutenant on that ſubject, requeſting him to tranſmit them to the King, waited on his Excellency, and here the buſineſs reſted.

In the courſe of the debates on the Union two declarations were made by Mr. Pitt, which are intereſting and important. In the debate on the quota of finance to be furniſhed by Ireland, he declared his opinion that the income tax ſhould be permanent; and the diſcuſſion of the queſtion relative to the introduction of Members from Ireland into the Imperial Parliament led him to retract, in the fulleſt manner, the opinions which, in the commencement of his political career, he expreſſed on the ſubject of parliamentary reform.

Before

Before the Eaſter receſs, a bill was brought into the Houſe for amending the law relative to the taxation of income, and preventing frauds, which, from the nature of ſome of its regulations, excited ſenſations of fear and diſguſt in many of thoſe who are in the habit of ſupporting government. In the courſe of debate, however, it was diſcovered that there was a want of conſtitutional formality in the conſtruction of the bill, and it was withdrawn. Notice was, however, given that another bill on the ſubject would be ſoon introduced, with ſome alterations.

From the beſt authorities, we are enabled to ſtate that the projected expedition, conducted with ſo much laudable ſecreſy, is now abandoned. It was intended for the Mediterranean, but is rendered unneceſſary by the capitulation of Kleber, and the certainty of the ſurrender of Malta.

PETRARCH's IDEA *of* BOOKS.

FEW perſons knew the value of books better than Petrarch. His friends having written him ſeveral apologies for not viſiting him, in which they declaimed againſt his love of ſolitude, as unnatural to a human being, and reproached him on his unſocial mode of life; Petrarch ſmiled at their meſſages, and made the following excellent remarks: "Theſe people conſider the pleaſures of the world as their ſupreme good, and not to be renounced. But I have friends of a different deſcription, whoſe ſociety is far more agreeable to me. They are of all countries, and of all ages; they are diſtinguiſhed in war, in politics, and in the ſciences. It is very eaſy to ſee them; they are always at my ſervice. I call for their company, or ſend them away whenever I pleaſe; they are never troubleſome, and immediately anſwer all my queſtions. Some relate the events of ages paſt, others reveal the ſecrets of nature; theſe teach me how to live in comfort, thoſe how to die in quiet. Theſe drive away every care and increaſe my gaiety by the brilliancy of their wit, whilſt others harden my heart againſt ſuffering, ſhow me how to reſtrain my deſires, and enable me to depend on myſelf alone. In return for all theſe ſervices, they only require of me a chamber, in one corner of my manſion, where they may repoſe in peace.

REMARK *of a* FRENCH EMIGRANT.

A French emigrant lately obſerved that one good had ariſen from the revolution, as it had induced the Devil to quit France. Obſerving that the company ſtared, he ſaid, "Be aſſured, that *Monſieur le Diable* is much too high-ſpirited to remain in France when there are no clergy to fight him."

CONCISENESS REWARDED.

LOUIS XIV. who loved a conciſe ſtyle, met on the road, as he was travelling into the country, a prieſt, who was riding poſt; and ordering him to ſtop, aſked haſtily—"Whence come you?—Where are you going?—What do you want?"—The other, who perfectly well knew the King's diſpoſition, inſtantly replied—"From Bruges—to Paris—A benefice!"—"You ſhall have it," replied the King, and in a few days preſented him with a valuable living.

Curious INSTANCES *of* OECONOMY.

LADY HARDWICKE, the Lady of the Chancellor, loved money as well as he did, and what he got ſhe ſaved. The purſe in which the Great Seal is carried, is of very extenſive embroidery, and was provided, during his time, every year. Lady Hardwicke took care that it ſhould not be provided for the ſeal-bearer's profit; for ſhe annually retained them herſelf, having previouſly ordered that the velvet ſhould be of the length of one of the ſtate-rooms at Wimple. So many of them were ſaved, that at length ſhe had enough to hang the ſtate-room, and make curtains for the bed!

THIS ſame Lady Hardwicke was equally provident for the table. Sometimes it was neceſſary to give a dinner, but for fiſh ſhe did not chuſe to give money. Veniſon was accordingly ſent up on ſuch occaſions from the park at Wimple, and this ſhe took in her carriage to a fiſhmonger's at Temple Bar, exchanging it for the dainties required by her extravagant company.

Anſwer, by T. Whicker, of Exeter, to T. Jarvis's Rebus, inſerted February 10.

FAM'D WALLER! a great favourite of his age,
A name immortal for his pleaſing page.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from R. Thomas, W. Harris, jun. and T. Whicker, of Exeter; Philom. of Teingmouth; R. Andrews, of Kingſbridge; C. N. of the Royal Miners; Dubious, of Calverleigh; and J. R. Toulmin, of Barnſtaple.

Anſwer, by W. Harris, Jun. of Exeter, to T. Bullock's Charade, inſerted February 24.

THE *Cartridge*, Friend Bullock, to me it ſeems clear,
Makes cannons to thunder, and balls cleave the air.

*** We have received the like anſwer from R. Thomas, P. Gove, and T. Whicker, of Exeter; and Philomathes, of Teingmouth.

A REBUS, *by T. Jarvis, of Malborough.*

COME, ye youths, that love to wander,
When gay ſpring delightful reigns,
Where the cryſtal ſtreams meander
O'er the variegated plains.

Hark! the ſongſters now invite you—
There my firſt in bright attire
With ſweet notes that will delight you,
Helps to form the happy choir.

My ſecond too is of the number,
Be attentive, gentle ſwains;
Doubtleſs you'll be ſtruck with wonder
When you hear his artleſs ſtrains.

Haſte to yonder pleaſant bower,
Where gay Flora, goddeſs bright!
Sits bedeck'd with beauteous flowers—
You my next will have in ſight.

May my laſt be led by reaſon
Ev'ry mutual bliſs to prove!
Surely 'tis the proper ſeaſon
For gay ſcenes of gentle love.

Sapient youths! a modern poet
I've endeavour'd to conceal;
The initials rightly join'd will ſhow it,
And the ſame you'll ſoon reveal.

POETRY.

ODE *to* OLD AGE.

THEE, oft deſpis'd, old age, I ſing;
To thee an humble off'ring bring,
And bow before thy ſhrine:
The feeble voice, the tott'ring tread,
The ſnowy locks full thinly ſpread,
And palſied hand, are thine.

"Lack luſtre eyes," that dimly ſee,
And phantom form belong to thee,
And pains, which years will bring;
But "all is right;" man, like a flow'r,
Of bloom has but his ſhort-liv'd hour;
Winter muſt follow ſpring.

"Lame, blind, diſeas'd, of ſtrength bereft!
"Is there no anodyne then left
"To mitigate theſe woes?"
Yes; age has opiates in its power,
To lull to reſt life's ailful hour,
And give pain ſweet repoſe.

And tho' youth's gay and giddy train
Be loth to liſten to the ſtrain,
And read with half ſhut eyes;
The muſe of many years declares,
That age its joys and raptures ſhares,
Which bear from youth the prize.

For, to grey hairs, we ween, belong
Diſcernment clear, and judgment ſtrong,
To "find the better way;"
Meekly to mark, with mental eye,
The path which leads to yonder ſky!
Has youth thus much to ſay?

ADDRESS *to an* INFANT ASLEEP.

SLEEP ſweetly on, thou gentle child,
From guile thy little dreams are free;
I love to view that face ſo mild,
And look with envy down on thee.

The ſmile that plays upon thy cheek,
With pleaſure and delight I trace;

So

So pure, ſo innocent, ſo meek,
It well might deck an angel's face!

Whilſt on thy cherub form I gaze,
And penſive watch thy cradle near;
I think upon my infant days,
And drop a ſad, a ſilent tear.

For then, unvex'd by pain or ſtrife,
Sweet were my hours of balmy ſleep;
I dreamt not on the ills of life,
And felt not I was born to weep.

How ſwift, alas! thoſe moments fly,
Juſt like the meteor's dazzling ray;
Which gleams a moment 'mid the ſky,
And then in darkneſs fades away.

But, lovely babe, thy ſleep enjoy,
I would not break thy calm repoſe;
Thy dream of bliſs I'd not deſtroy,
Nor plant a thorn where blooms the roſe!

And tho' the golden viſion fade,
And thou the ills of life ſhould'ſt ſhare;
May guilt thy boſom ne'er invade,
But virtue hold her dwelling there!

Then ſhall thy ſleep as now be ſweet,
Soft ſhall thy downy pillow be;
In vain the ſtorms of life may beat
They will not, cannot, injure thee!

ADDRESS *to the* RAINBOW.

LOVELIEST of the meteor-train,
Girdle of the ſummer-rain,
Tinger of the dews of air,
Glowing viſion fleet as fair,
While the evening ſhower retires
Kindle thy unhurting fires,
And among the meadows near
Thy refulgent pillar rear;
Or amid the dark-blue cloud
High thine orbed glories ſhroud,
Or the moiſten'd hills between,
Bent in mighty arch be ſeen,
Thro' whoſe ſparkling portals wide
Fiends of ſtorm and darkneſs ride.

Like chearfulneſs thou'rt wont to gaze
Always on the brighteſt blaze,
Canſt from ſetting ſuns deduce
Varied gleams and ſprightly hues;
And on louring gloom imprint
Smiling ſtreaks of gayeſt tint.